

RIAMA UNICOLOR. (Pl. XV. fig. 2.)

Uniform lead-coloured in spirits; tail longer than the body and head, tapering to a fine point.

Hab. Ecuador (*Mr. Louis Fraser*).

Length: body and head $2\frac{1}{2}$, tail $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

It may be observed, that though the genera of the family *Chalcidæ* all agree in the form and situation of the nostrils between the nasal and labial shields, and in the absence of the external ear, they present two very distinct forms of scaling, forming at least two tribes. Thus:—

1. The scales elongate, subquadrate, pointed behind; the scales in the rings alternating with each other, the points of the scales of one ring being opposite to the suture between the scales in the next ring.—*Brachypodina*: *Brachypus*.

2. The scales elongate, subquadrate, truncated at the end; the scales of the different rings opposite each other, forming longitudinal as well as transverse lines. The ventral and subcaudal shields broader than the rest.—*Chalcidina*: *Chalcis*—the first having the shield like *Chirocolidæ* and *Anadiadæ*, and the second like *Cercosauridæ* and the genus *Riama* here described.

Another genus of this family named *Bachia*, which is not in the British Museum, is described as having narrow, smooth, six-sided shields on the back, in nineteen longitudinal series.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XV.

Fig. 1. *Argalia olivacea*, P. Z. S. 1847, p. 97. From Venezuela.

Fig. 2. *Riama unicolor*.

All natural size.

November 9, 1858.

Dr. Gray, F.R.S., V.P., in the Chair.

The following papers were read:—

1. CHARACTERS OF FIVE NEW SPECIES OF AMERICAN BIRDS.
By PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER, M.A.

1. *EUCHLORNIS FRONTALIS*, sp. nov.

*Psittaceo-viridis, fronte et gutture flavis; alis caudaque intus
nigris, extus viridi limbatis; secundariis albo anguste termina-*

tis: ventre medio flavo variegato: rostro fuscescenti-nigro, pedibus pallide flavis.

Long. tota 6·5, alæ 3·3, caudæ 2·5.

Hab. Bolivia (*Bridges*).

Mus. Derbiano.

I have enumerated the seven known species of this beautiful group, under the description of *Euchlornis melanolaema* in the 'Annals of Natural History' for June 1856. I there used the generic name *Pipreola* for them, thinking then that Swainson's *Pipreola chlorolepidota* probably belonged to the genus. But after again considering Swainson's description, I must acknowledge that the point is very doubtful, and, until it is cleared up, it is perhaps more proper to employ De Filippi's term *Euchlornis* for the genus.

It is easy to recognize the present species of *Euchlornis* by its yellow front and blackish bill, which are possessed by no other member of the group. In size it is also inferior to all except *Euchlornis sclateri*, Cornalia. The only example I have ever seen was procured by Bridges in Bolivia, and received through Mr. Cuming by the late Lord Derby in 1846. It now ornaments the Derby Museum at Liverpool, and has been lent me, along with some other rare S. American birds, through the liberality of the Trustees of that Institution, so that I now have the pleasure of submitting it to the examination of the Society.

2. *TURDUS LEUCAUCHEN.*

Supra nigricanti-cinereus, alis et cauda saturatioribus; capite toto et gula nigris, hac albo striata; collo antico pure albo; abdomine toto pallide cinereo, ventre medio crissoque albis; tectricibus subalaribus pallide ochraceo-fulvis; rostro flavo, pedibus pallide brunneis.

Long. tota 9·0, alæ 4·6, caudæ 3·8.

Hab. In Guatemala.

Mus. P. L. S.

This is one of the numerous allies of *Turdus crotopex* of Brazil and *T. assimilis* of Mexico. It is however a very distinct species, easily recognizable amongst them, by its dark cinereous colour, conspicuously white neck-mark and yellow bill. My example was obtained from Mr. Leadbeater. Others similar are in Mr. Gould's collection.

3. *GEOTHLYPIS SPECIOSA.*

Saturate flavo-oleaginea; capite, præcipue ad latera, cum regione auriculari nigris; alarum remigibus fusco-nigris: subtus viride flavus, lateribus brunnescentioribus, tectricibus subalaribus flavis; rostro nigro, pedibus nigricanti-carneis. ♀ Supra olivacea unicolor, subtus brunnescenti-flava, lateraliter olivascens.

Long. tota 5·3, alæ 2·4, caudæ 2·3.

Hab. In Mexico.

I found an adult male, a young male, and a female of this pretty Yellow-throat among some duplicates lately obtained by exchange

from the Museum of Geneva, which were out of the fine collection made by M. de Saussure during his recent travels in Mexico. These specimens had been wrongly identified with *Geothlypis trichas*, from which the black head of the male and want of the white band, not to speak of minor differences, render it easily distinguishable. The female, however, is not unlike the female of *G. trichas*, but of a more brownish yellow below. In form this species is rather more tenuirostral, and the tarsi, toes, and claws are slightly longer. The third primary is slightly shorter than the fourth and fifth.

4. CYCLORHIS FLAVIPECTUS.

Olivaceo-viridis; capite cinereo, pileo saturatiore; fronte, loris et superciliis elongatis rubris: subtus late flavus, mento summo, ventre crissoque pure albis; rostri mandibula superiore brunnea, inferiore nigro-plumbea, apice pallescente; pedibus pallide carneis.

Long. tota 6·0, alæ 2·8, caudæ 2·2.

Hab. In ins. Trinit., Venezuela; et rep. Nov. Grenad.

Until I obtained examples of the true *Cyclorhis guianensis* from Guiana and Cayenne, I mistook the present bird for that species. On comparison they are quite distinct, the *Cyclorhis guianensis* having the head pure cinereous, the yellow colour below confined to the fore-neck and sides of the breast and of a different tinge, and the legs lead-colour, and being besides of smaller dimensions. Of the present bird I have examples from Trinidad, from Venezuela collected by M. Aug. Sallé between La Guayra and Caraccas, from S. Martha received from M. Verreaux, and from Bogota collections.

I now recognize at least six distinct species of this purely Neotropical group (some of which have been sadly confounded together by modern systematists), each occupying a distinct geographic area, namely—

1. *guianensis*, (Gm.) ex Guiana, et Brazil. Bor.
2. *nigrirostris*, Lafr. ex Nov. Gren. int.
3. *flavipectus*, mihi, ex Trinit. ins. Venezuela et Nov. Gren. littorali.
4. *flaviventris*, Lafr. ex Guatemala et Mex. Merid.
5. *ochrocephala*, Tsch. ex Bras. Mer. Orient.
6. *viridis*, Vieill., ex Paraguay et Boliv.

The last two species are very different, as may be seen at a glance, and yet have been always confounded together. In the Brazilian species the bill is of a pale reddish horn colour. In the Paraguay and Bolivian species it is much more elevated and compressed, and has a large dark lead-coloured blotch at the base.

5. CINCLODES BIFASCIATUS.

Supra fulvescenti-brunneus, superciliis elongatis albis; alis nigricanti-brunneis albo bifasciatis, tectricibus omnibus dorso concoloribus; cauda nigra, rectricibus tribus extimis albo terminatis: subtus grisescenti-albus; hypochondriis, ventre imo et

